

Dear Bethany Family;

Amid this beautiful season of Advent, I'm reminded that *our world is filled with longing*. Standing on a train platform in Germany, I see a middle-eastern immigrant family, new to Europe, uncertain they're on the right platform. They don't know the language; can't read their ticket; surely don't know their future, and yet, filled with longing, they've taken a step because of hope.

Each week, people step through our doors, longing for meaning, freedom, and forgiveness. **Pointing to Christ as the only true source of hope** is our privilege and we've done this in countless ways this year, including:

- **Solidifying local missions:** resettling a refugee family; school partnerships to serve the next generation; women's shelter expansion, robust food bank/community meal ministries in [Bethany's new Community Life Center](#).
- **Moving 3 Bethany locations into new worship spaces**, creating more space for worship and outreach.
- **Strategic Visit and new global mission partnership with Agros International, Nicaragua** – enabling rural poor families to flourish through agricultural development and be empowered by land ownership.

Every one of these and countless other initiatives are the result of your faithful investment of both time and money. Thank you! **December is an absolutely vital month in resourcing ministries at Bethany**. I invite you to pray about a year-end gift so that the work God is doing can continue unimpeded into 2018. Also, if you made a pledge for our Cascading or Building Faith initiatives, those pledges are due this month. A few have told me that upon completing their pledge, they transferred their ongoing monthly gift to Bethany's general fund, as they'd found a joy in generosity that they wanted to continue. Some of you might consider joining them. **Thank you!**

There are three simple ways to give electronically:

1. Online at churchbcc.org/give
2. [The Bethany App](#)
3. Text the keyword **churchbcc** to 77977

Giving a year-end check? Please make sure it's postmarked by Dec. 31, 2017.

Considering a stock donation? Please contact: finance@churchbcc.org

Advent reminds us of what the Apostle Paul calls "God's unspeakable gift". We are able to bless because we've received infinite blessing from the One who held nothing back. Our cups are full because His was poured out. **May our generosity rise, not from obligation, but gratitude!**

In Christ,
Richard Dahlstrom
Senior Pastor of Bethany Community Church